



Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

*Karen Gordes, Chair – Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director
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2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 727

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners - Sunset Extension

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill, as written, extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the “Board”) for 3 years until July 1, 2027.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports SB 727 with an amendment.

In 2022, SB 209 was amended in the Senate to change the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board to only two (2) years until July 1, 2024, instead of the originally proposed Bill that extended the Board for ten (10) years until July 1, 2032. The Board disagreed with the passing of the two (2) year amendment, but had no choice since the Board was going to sunset July 1, 2022.

The Board has no outstanding deficiencies to correct and the passing of SB 727 will ensure the continuation of the Board’s mandated responsibilities of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Maryland through its licensing, compliance, and disciplinary statutes and regulations for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.

The Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and Health Professional Boards & Commissions (HPBCs) underwent an audit conducted by the Office of Legislative Auditors (OLA) for the period beginning September 28, 2015, and ending September 24, 2019. Published on January 19, 2021, the OLA report did not recommend sunseting the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners or name the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners in the findings.

Proactively, the Board collaborated with the Audit and Finance Compliance Unit in the Department of Budget & Management (DBM) as well as with the MDH Office of Internal Controls, Audit Compliance & Information Security (IAC/S). The IAC/S January 5, 2023 status report to OLA for the audit period ending April 30, 2022 results:

- Finding 3: COMPLETE - Satisfactorily complied with the OLA’s recommendation
- Finding 4: COMPLETE - Satisfactorily complied with the OLA’s recommendation

The Board wishes to acknowledge the support extended to us by DBM and IAC/S.

The Board supports SB 727 with amendment and respectfully asks to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board, to the following:

Amendment 1

Page 2, line 3: Strike **2027** and insert **2034**.

The Board thanks the committee for considering this testimony and respectfully requests a favorable outcome of SB 727 with Board amendment to be adopted under this title.

For more information, please contact Laurie Kendall-Ellis, Executive Director of the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners at (410) 764-4718 or at laurie.kendall-ellis@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.